

(c) The person named in the emergency order may request in writing, not later than the 18th day after the date the order is *delivered or mailed, whichever is earlier*, a hearing to show that the emergency order should be stayed. On receipt of the request, the commissioner shall set a time for the hearing not later than the 21st day after the date the commissioner received the request, unless extended at the request of the person named in the order.

(d) *Unless the commissioner receives a written request for a hearing in accordance with Subsection (c), the order is final on the 19th day after the date the order is delivered or mailed, whichever is earlier, and may not be appealed.*

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed the Senate on April 1, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House on April 30, 2015: Yeas 139, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved May 15, 2015.

Effective May 15, 2015.

STUDIES ON THE RATES OF ELECTRIC UTILITIES

CHAPTER 20

S.B. No. 774

AN ACT

relating to studies on the rates of electric utilities.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 36.210, Utilities Code, is amended by amending Subsections (h) and (i) and adding Subsection (h-1) to read as follows:

(h) The commission shall undertake a study and conduct a report analyzing any periodic rate adjustment established under this section. The study shall be available for the legislature's review by January 31, 2019 [2017], so that the legislature may properly be informed as to the need to continue the commission's authority to allow periodic rate adjustments. The report shall contain but shall not be limited to:

- (1) an analysis of all periodic rate adjustments approved by the commission;
- (2) an analysis of the amounts in real dollars and percentages of the approved amounts by the commission and the effects on all classes of ratepayers;
- (3) the costs savings, if any, realized by all parties by utilizing periodic rate adjustment as opposed to ratemaking proceedings;
- (4) an analysis on distribution costs included in periodic rate adjustments, and their appropriateness for inclusion in periodic rate adjustments; and
- (5) an analysis submitted by the office on the effects of periodic rate adjustments.

(h-1) *The commission shall conduct a study and make a report analyzing alternative ratemaking mechanisms adopted by other states and shall make recommendations regarding appropriate reforms to the ratemaking process in this state. The commission shall include in the report an analysis that demonstrates how the commission's recommended reforms would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the oversight of electric utilities and ensure that electric rates are just and reasonable, as required by this chapter. The commission may retain an independent consultant, at the expense of electric utilities, to conduct the study. The commission shall provide the report to the legislature not later than January 15, 2017.*

- (i) This section expires September [January] 1, 2019 [2017].

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed the Senate on April 9, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on April 30, 2015: Yeas 136, Nays 3, one present not voting.

Approved May 15, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

**REQUIRING DIRECT ACCESS TO 9-1-1 SERVICE FROM
CERTAIN TELEPHONE SYSTEMS AND EQUIVALENT
SYSTEMS THAT USE INTERNET PROTOCOL ENABLED
SERVICES**

CHAPTER 21

S.B. No. 788

AN ACT

relating to requiring direct access to 9-1-1 service from certain telephone systems and equivalent systems that use Internet Protocol enabled services.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as Kari's Law.

SECTION 2. Subtitle B, Title 9, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 771A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 771A. ACCESS TO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN GENERAL

Sec. 771A.001. DIRECT ACCESS TO 9-1-1 SERVICE REQUIRED. (a) In this chapter:

(1) "9-1-1 service" means a communications service that connects users to a public safety answering point through a 9-1-1 system.

(2) "Business service user" means a user of business service that provides telecommunications service, including 9-1-1 service, to end users through a publicly or privately owned or controlled telephone switch.

(3) "Commission" means the Commission on State Emergency Communications.

(4) "Emergency communication district" means:

(A) a public agency or group of public agencies acting jointly that provided 9-1-1 service before September 1, 1987, or that had voted or contracted before that date to provide that service; or

(B) a district created under Subchapter B, C, D, F, or G, Chapter 772.

(5) "Internet Protocol enabled service" has the meaning assigned by Section 51.002, Utilities Code.

(6) "Telephone system" includes a multiline telephone system.

(b) This section applies to the extent the section is not inconsistent with or preempted by federal law.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, a business service user that owns or controls a telephone system or an equivalent system that uses Internet Protocol enabled service and provides outbound dialing capacity or access shall configure the telephone system or equivalent system to allow a person initiating a 9-1-1 call on the system to directly access 9-1-1 service by dialing the digits 9-1-1 without an additional code, digit, prefix, postfix, or trunk-access code.